

the Carpenter's Way family to mourn, and Kelvin Moreland to rest in peace.

TRIBUTE TO M.J. KLYN, A GREAT  
LIVING CINCINNATIAN

**HON. ROB PORTMAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 12, 1999*

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mary Jeanne (M.J.) Klyn, a dear friend and community leader who will be honored as a Great Living Cincinnatian on February 19, 1999 by the Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce. She was selected for her exemplary community service, business and civic accomplishments, awareness of the needs of others, and achievements that have brought favorable attention to the Cincinnati area.

M.J. grew up in Illinois and attended Northwestern University. She was successful in banking, retailing and advertising in Cleveland, and was named the first female vice president of the University of Cincinnati. Among her duties was to work with the state legislature on funding and other issues. During her 23 years with the University of Cincinnati, she played a pivotal role in bringing the university into the state system and helped obtain more than \$2 billion for important capital projects. Among M.J.'s accomplishments were obtaining funds for the Shoemaker Center and the Barrett Cancer Center. She also led the drive to obtain the designation of the U.S. College of Engineering as one of ten NASA Federal Research Centers.

M.J. also served for 20 years on the Board of the Greater Cincinnati Convention and Visitor's Bureau, and earned its first Spirit of Cincinnati Chairman's Award. Women in Communications honored her with its Movers and Shakers Award. M.J. makes friends wherever she goes, and I feel lucky to be among them. All of us in Cincinnati are grateful for her leadership, service, and commitment to our Greater Cincinnati community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 12, 1999*

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 13 (H.R. 439), I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

PACKERS AND STOCKYARDS ACT  
AMENDMENTS

SPEECH OF

**HON. BOB ETHERIDGE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 9, 1999*

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend Mr. LATHAM for introducing this important legislation and Chairman COMBEST for bringing it to the floor today. As has been well

documented, our pork producers have been devastated by record-low prices for their products over the past year. While live hog prices have fallen dramatically, consumer prices are virtually unchanged. Somebody is getting rich at the expense of our farmers. Pork producers need better and more up-to-date information on prices to ensure that they are being treated fairly, and I hope the investigation into pork prices prompted by this legislation will go a long way towards protecting their interests.

For too long, the processing and distribution of swine has been concentrated in too few hands. This concentration could be dangerous for our farmers, and I urge the Senate to move quickly to pass this important legislation. Too many small farmers and their families in North Carolina depend on swine production for their livelihood for us not to take action now. This investigation is a small but important step in the right direction and I urge the House to adopt this important bill today.

REJECT THE LEGAL "END  
AROUND" ON GUN MAKERS

**HON. JOHN E. SWEENEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 12, 1999*

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Speaker, in the wake of the tobacco lawsuits, many in our nation's legal profession have fallen into the wrong-headed idea that courts, rather than legislatures, should decide all public policy issues. Nowhere is this more notable than in the lawsuits recently filed by several cities against the firearms industry.

Mr. Speaker, even many publications that support restrictive gun control laws have spoken out against this trend. The Schenectady *Daily Gazette*, a newspaper that serves many of my constituents in upstate New York, blames violence on the lack of gun laws. I strongly disagree with that view—in fact, our nation has tens of thousands of gun laws at every level of government, and the laws in New York state are particularly strict.

However, I do agree with the *Daily Gazette's* conclusion that the lawsuits are "hugely misguided" and nothing but an "absurd money grab" designed to make a scapegoat of a highly regulated industry that manufactures a lawful product. Mr. Speaker, I urge the nation's courts and legislatures to reject these ridiculous lawsuits, and I insert the *Daily Gazette* editorial for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

[From the *Daily Gazette*, Nov. 5, 1998]

DON'T SUE GUN MAKERS

New Orleans is a great destination for music lovers and gourmets, but it's also a good place to get shot. In fact, until a law-and-order mayor took office there four years ago, it had the dubious distinction of being "the murder capital of the United States." Now the city has filed a huge—and hugely misguided—lawsuit against 15 gun manufacturers. Numerous other large cities reportedly want to join the suit. Unbelievable.

A cousin to the numerous lawsuits pending against the tobacco industry, the suit attempts to make manufacturers a scapegoat for products that are wholly lawful and used primarily for their intended purpose. (Granted, guns aren't supposed to be used to commit murder, but there's little ambiguity

about their primary function as weapons for killing and maiming, whether for hunting or self-defense.)

The lawsuit focuses on the product liability angle, claiming that because gun makers fail to use enough safety devices, their weapons are "unreasonably dangerous." This might be arguable if most gun deaths were accidental—if typical lines like "I didn't know it was loaded," or "It just went off" were true. But in New Orleans—as in most cities—the killings are intentional. And most adults who handle guns know to take at least a little care to guard against accidents.

Are the gun makers to blame when some drug dealer steals a pistol and wastes his rival with it? Not unless they're handing out the weapons, or glamorizing this sort of behavior with advertising, etc. And if some kid gets his hands on his parents' gun and accidentally blows his friend away, aren't the parents really at fault for not doing a better job securing the weapon?

Where cigarette manufacturers can be accused of promoting irresponsible usage, gun makers almost never advertise—at least not handguns. And where the cigarette's primary function is to provide smokers with pleasure—with illness an unfortunate consequence—guns are inherently lethal.

So let's stop this absurd money grab. Gun makers may not be completely devoid of responsibility for this country's gun problem, but a government that allows guns to be made and people to buy and possess them seems a lot more culpable.

STATES' INITIATIVE

**HON. TOM BLILEY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 12, 1999*

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I introduced H.J. Res. 29. I have sponsored this legislation with Congressmen KOLBE, GOODE, STUMP, GILLMOR, METCALF, SHADEGG, and MANZULLO. This constitutional amendment symbolizes what in Virginia we call the States' Initiative.

When the Founding Fathers wrote the Constitution in Philadelphia in 1787, they drew upon life's experiences and history to perfect the ideas and ideals the Constitution embraces. After they finished writing the Constitution, the Founding Fathers were wise enough to know they could not foresee the future. As a result, Article V provides for a mechanism to amend the Constitution.

We all know the Constitution is not perfect, even after 27 amendments. The Constitution has, although, protected the individual liberties all Americans have enjoyed for over 200 years.

As the proud holder of the seat first held by James Madison, my first objective is to never do any harm to the Constitution. However, the Founding Fathers acknowledged a need to amend the Constitution. The States' Initiative is a direct descendant of Madison's writings.

In Federalist paper 43, James Madison wrote,

... useful alterations will be suggested by experience. The Constitution moreover equally enables the general and the state governments to originate the amendment of errors as they may be pointed out by the experience on one side or on the other.

At present, Article V provides for two ways to amend the Constitution.